

Dear Quin,

2/10/79

I've just come to the end of what I hope is the complete draft of a long affidavit in 78-0249. Jim told me yesterday that with refused the request for a short time extension in which to file it but I'm finishing it anyway and expect to use it. Meanwhile, I have to get it out of my mind for a while so I'll start with the accumulated mail. Your thoughtful copy of the Brill piece is among the more recent of the accumulation but I've also received a couple of things you might want.

I agree with the second part of the note you wrote with the Esquire copy: If Mark Lane does not sue Steven Brill he must be disbarred.

There is virtually no chance this side of complete desperation that Lane will sue. I once tried to entice it. I'd heard that he was telling others that if I ever said anything else about him he'd sue me. I wrote him promptly, I believe certified, telling him that if what had been reported to him was not enough to persuade him to sue then he was this kind of sinofabitch, that kind of crook, etc. I've never since heard any alleged threat of an alleged suit. I could entertain you endlessly over this sort of thing.

I had nothing to do with the Brill piece. He never phoned me. At one point one of the Esquire editors checked a few minor points, a minor I do not recall them. The opinion I then offered is that it is impossible to libel Lane and I had enough to defeat any suit and would provide it.

For years I was publicly silent about the monster, dodging talk show questions and avoiding pointless controversy that would have wasted time and energy. Until early 1975, when I prepared to tangle with him face-to-face at NYU law school only to come down with pneumonia and pleurisy. Jim read the speech I was not able to cut. I'd done a draft only and expected to reduce it in NYC but got so sick instead. I've no heard a word from Lane about it. I've done him in too often, meaning each of the few time we appeared together.

Short of his finale ultimatum I doubt I can get old or sick or weak enough for him to want to pick a fight with me. Right now I'm content for events to take whatever course they take. I've made and will make no effort to get in touch with the NY bar or the DCI lawyer who filed charges. On the other hand, as I offered as recently as yesterday to an Atlanta woman magazine reporter, what have is available to scholars and reporters alike. On Lane it is a fat file and many tape recordings not one of which I made myself. They were sent to me by others, from odd places, like Pittsburgh.

I do not approve of the FBI's efforts against him over the Warren Commission and would not have anything to do with the FBI over that. However, I know the sick man and was certain all along that he was well aware of what could and then did happen in Jonestown. That is truly frightful and if he was in any degree an accessory the law should work and I hope it does.

My own belief is that the Department and probably the FBI are afraid of the martyr bit, as I know the Post is. His best present protection is a combination of the wrong things the FBI and CIA did and all the hollering and exaggerating he did to so many audiences. It is protection only if the DJ or FBI permit self-intimidation if there is the case I believe there is.

Lil will probably do some copying later. If and when she does I'll include a copy of a Memphis article that really understates the utter stupidity of his latest effort supposedly for Ray and a copy of a leaked memo he wrote Jim Hanks Jones. The leak was to Crewdson. Jim will probably send me the story that finally appeared and typical of Crewdson says much less than it could. Crewdson's leak, according to the San Francisco FBI, was not by the FBI. I don't care, I'm telling you what I was told. Garry would not surprise me. Kevin, who is an old friend, tells me it is false. Lane spoke to him. The rest is totally untrue.

By proxy, by informing another, I've located several other of the movies and other stills the Dallas FBI did not send to DV or apparently let FBIHQ

know about. They don't have to be told what HQ does not want to have to work around...I hear the Denver Post had a crazy and factually wrong story about another previously unseen film I had nothing to do with. That film, I'm told, has other importances, if it comes to your attention.

I've not been able to return to the New Orleans stuff about which I think I wrote you a little. I've some memos that awaited copies, etc., but do not have a clear recollection of them now. Except for what I could not avoid I've been working on the affidavit and done other things in odd moments if at all.

Aside from the lane, I've got it virtually clear and think I feel a bit better for the exertion. The snow blower was a great investment. Keeping it going straight also exercises the arms and just walking behind it the legs. Did close to 2,000 yards behind it before 10:30 a.m.

I've loaned the Post-Dispatch the Patterson file, with his OK. I did not have time to even look at it. They'll make and mail a copy to him if they haven't and I've told them I'll pay for it.

He has written me about what I think may be a Lane-inspired St. L. disinformation probably aimed at the FBI. I have to respond now on the chance I can get it in the mail before Monday's.

Thanks for the addition on Lane,